

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

Message from Sandra Doorley

Victims are the Reason

Time and time again, the ADAs in my office and I are asked "why are we public servants?" The hours are long, the pressure is heavy, and the pay is not competitive compared to our private sector colleagues. The answer is simple, we do it for the victims and we do it for the community.

As public servants, we have a duty to serve the people of Monroe County. This means doing our part to prioritize public safety and hold offenders accountable. Ask any of the attorneys in my office and they will tell you, we do it for the victims.

Every victim is important. As prosecutors, we typically meet victims and their families during the most terrible moments of their lives. It is up to us and the excellent victim advocates in our office to explain the intimidating process of court and the criminal justice system.

I have three trials scheduled this year, with three very different victims. On Tuesday, I begin the trial of People v. Ronald Lagasse. This trial is about Mary Simzer, a 65-year-old woman who was killed on September 24, 2022. I look forward to being Mary's voice in court next week and finding the justice she deserves.

The trial of People v. Timothy Williams is slated for this August. This cold case is related to the 1984 murder of 14-year-old Wendy Jerome. Wendy was a child who was never forgotten by her family, this community, and law enforcement. I am proud to give Wendy her day in court nearly 40 years later.

Finally, the People v. Kelvin Vickers. This is a name that unfortunately, many of you know. This case is about Rochester's own fallen officer, Anthony Mazurkiewicz, and Rochester Police Officer Sino Seng. Earlier this week, Officer Mazurkiewicz's wife Lynn accepted the Officer of the Year Award on behalf of her husband. The murder of Officer Mazurkiewicz and attempted murder of Officer Seng was devastating to us all. I will find justice for both men, their families, and our community.

Homicide Update

So far in 2023:

City of Rochester Total:
20

Monroe County Total: 24

I chose to personally prosecute each of these cases. They are all different, with different circumstances, different defendants, and different victims. Each one of these victims deserves to have their story told.

Mary Simzer, Wendy Jerome, Office Anthony Mazurkiewicz, they are why I am a prosecutor, they are why I am a public servant. They are my reason.

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

The trial of People v. **Timothy Brown** will continue into next week in front of Monroe County Court Judge Morrison. Timothy Brown is charged with two counts of Murder in the 1st Degree, two counts of Murder in the 2nd Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicides of Tywan Harper and Malakai Smith. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Robertson, Deputy Chief of the Special Victim Unit.

The trial of People v. **Ronald Lagasse** begins on Tuesday in front of Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger. Ronald Lagasse is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicide of Mary Simzer. This case is being prosecuted by Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

The trial of People v. **Christopher Carlos Williams, Jr.** begins on Tuesday in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi. Christopher Williams is charged with two counts of Murder in the 2nd Degree and four counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicides of Kenneth Johnson and Marcus Bennett. This case is being prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles and Assistant District Attorney Michelle Crowley, Chief of the Grand Jury/Attorney Training Bureau.

The trial of People v. **Trevor Smith** begins on Tuesday in front of Monroe County Court Judge Vacca. Trevor Smith is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicide of Jeremy Hamilton, Jr. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Bokelman, Chief of the Public Integrity & Economic Crimes Bureau.

21-year-old **Jamila Evans** was convicted by a Monroe County jury of Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree, Vehicular Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Driving While Intoxicated, and Driving While Ability Impaired by the Combined Influence of Drugs or of Alcohol and any Drug or Drugs for causing the death of 23-year-old Autumn Johnson. On June 17, 2021, Rochester Police Officers responded to a fatal crash at Central Park and North Goodman Street where Autumn Johnson was pronounced dead at the scene. After a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department, it was determined that the driver, Jamila Evans, was under the influence of alcohol and cannabis when she drove through flashing red traffic lights, failed to yield to an ambulance with its emergency lights and sirens on, and crashed into the ambulance, killing Autumn Johnson. The victim was a passenger in Jamila Evan's vehicle. The ambulance, which was en route to a separate emergency, crashed into a utility pole due to the collision. Following the crash, the EMT and paramedic from the ambulance assisted the passengers of the defendant's vehicle to the best of their abilities. Another passenger in the same vehicle was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Kelly Pettrone, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

31-year-old **Monzellius Sims Jr.** was convicted of Criminal Possession of a weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th Degree by New York State Supreme Court Justice Schiano following a bench trial. 26-year-old **Detaji Parris** was also convicted of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th Degree by Justice Schiano following the same bench trial. On April 29, 2022, the defendants led multiple police agencies in a car chase through the City of Rochester and the towns of Gates and Greece. During the chase, an illegal firearm and illegal narcotics were thrown from the window. Both defendants attempted to flee on foot following the car chase, but were quickly appended by the New York State Police and the Rochester Police Department. Mozellius Sims, Jr. will be sentenced on July 24, 2023 and Detaji Parris will be sentenced on August 21, 2023. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Kelvin Vickers appeared in court for a Huntley Hearing for the indictment charging him with the murder of Rochester Police Officer Mazurkiewciz and the attempted murder of Rochester Police Officer Seng. Judge Hahn will issue a decision on this hearing on July 28, 2023. Kelvin Vickers is expected to face trial on September 18, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

MCDA in the Community

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley joined members of the Office at the 39th Annual Rochester Police Department Awards Celebration. At this celebration hosted by the Rochester Police Department and the Rochester Police Locust Club, many impressive honors were awarded including Investigator of the Year, Community Service Award, Unit Commendation, Life Saving Awards, Distinguished Service, and Officers of the Month. Most notably, Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz and Officer Sino Seng were awarded the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor. Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz was also named the Officer of the Year. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients, your valor and courage do not go unnoticed.



Monroe County District Attorney participated in the annual St. John Fisher Scholarship Golf Tournament. Despite the rain, the golfers enjoyed themselves while raising money for an excellent cause! Pictured below is Sandra with her dear friends, Gary and Amy Mason.



8 States for Maz

Several attorneys and staff of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office participated in last weekend's "8 States for Maz" finale! 900 runners and 300 spectators came together to support Officer Mazurkiewicz's family. Sgt. Brett Sobieraski (Ret.) ran over 1200 miles and organized this mission. He met his fundraising goal and brought the community together. Thank you, Brett, for all you have done for Officer Mazurkiewicz's family and the Rochester Police Department!



Welcome to the DA's Office!

This week, our newest attorney, Courtney Kleiman, was sworn in as an Assistant District Attorney. Welcome, Courtney!

MCDA in the News

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2023/06/14/jamila-evans-convicted-in-fatal-ambulance-crash-in-rochester-ny/70320412007/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/jamila-evans-found-guilty-of-manslaughter-dwi-in-fatal-crash/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/rochester/driver-convicted-in-fatal-dwi-ambulance-crash-jamila-evans-autumn-johnson/>

<https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2023-06-13-rochester-woman-convicted-in-fatal-crash-with-ambulance/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/strong-show-of-support-from-police-as-man-accused-of-killing-rochester-officer-appears-in-court#>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/police/fallen-rpd-officer-mazurkiewicz-officer-seng-honored-at-annual-ceremony/>

[https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/woman-convicted-manslaughter-fatal-ambulance-](https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/woman-convicted-manslaughter-fatal-ambulance-100225649.html?guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAC_dDRTxmuzunr61KqDdW9Etn1ejUq4sx24ml6cDKDgNyftvphgvfEWQ1618tnEgaevkgthU_YD7dAZS6y_vAHvHgBF_y6abqZYG8VrRdF4WvhrxTXN24GggzNDE_t5BmCayS7HIIU0-gPuEwIQeU1HeNTBrNAGCO7grHTdZ0zk1)

[100225649.html?guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAC_dDRTxmuzunr61KqDdW9Etn1ejUq4sx24ml6cDKDgNyftvphgvfEWQ1618tnEgaevkgthU_YD7dAZS6y_vAHvHgBF_y6abqZYG8VrRdF4WvhrxTXN24GggzNDE_t5BmCayS7HIIU0-gPuEwIQeU1HeNTBrNAGCO7grHTdZ0zk1](https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/woman-convicted-manslaughter-fatal-ambulance-100225649.html?guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAC_dDRTxmuzunr61KqDdW9Etn1ejUq4sx24ml6cDKDgNyftvphgvfEWQ1618tnEgaevkgthU_YD7dAZS6y_vAHvHgBF_y6abqZYG8VrRdF4WvhrxTXN24GggzNDE_t5BmCayS7HIIU0-gPuEwIQeU1HeNTBrNAGCO7grHTdZ0zk1)

<https://wham1180.iheart.com/content/2023-06-14-boston-man-in-court-today-for-allegedly-killing-a-rochester-police-officer/>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/man-charged-with-murder-of-officer-mazurkiewicz-appears-in-court/>

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/rochester/former-rpd-sergeant-running-8-states-for-maz-to-run-final-marathon/>



We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.